each other's country within three months from the date of their arrest and that repatriation would be done immediately after completion of sentence and nationality verification.

Following the visit, Pakistan had provided consular access to approximately 100 civilian prisoners and 650 fishermen in January and February 2005. The process of release and repatriation would follow confirmation of nationality and completion of sentence.

Government, through diplomatic channels, have also been consistently taking up the issue of early release of Indian POWs believed to be in Pakistan. The matter was also taken up during the meeting between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Prime Minister of Pakistan on November 24, 2004 and also during the Foreign Secretary level talks on December 27-28, 2004.

Relaxation in visa norms for Pakistani senior citizens

350. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have relaxed visa norms for senior citizens of Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Pakistan has also reciprocated by relaxing its norms for Indian senior citizens;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons advocated for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Subsequent to the April, 2003 normalization process, India, on 22 October, 2003, *inter alia,* permitted senior citizens (above 65) to cross at Wagah on foot. In order to give greater impetus to people-to-people contact and to generate further goodwill between the two countries, the government on September 18, 2004,

announced, amongst other visa liberalization measures, that all Pakistani nationals above the age of 65 would be granted "exemption from police reporting visas" (EPR Visas).

Additional visa liberalization measures were announced on December 28, 2004 which, *inter alia,* included visas on arrival at Wagah border to Senior Pakistani citizens above the age of 65 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government of Pakistan has not advocated any reason for not relaxing their norms.

Security Council seat without Veto

351. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian has not been given UN Security Council seat with Veto powers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor despite the facts that India is the largest democracy of the world;

(c) the names of the countries supporting India's claim for UN Security Council with Veto Power and those against it; and

(d) the strategy being adopted by Government to get its due position in UN Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Currently, the right of Veto is available only to the five permanent memebrs of the UN Security Council namely, China, France, the Russian Federation, USA and the UK. India is not a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

(b) The issue of the reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council has been under discussion at the United Nations for several years. There